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**CLASSIFICATION** 

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COUNTRY Austria/USSR

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SUBJECT Indication of Possible Rift between Soviets and Austrian Communist Party

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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On the morning of 17 May 1949, Austrian Communist Party shop councillors of the Schottengasse branch of the Soviet Oil Administration (SAV) called a meeting to discuss preparations for the Communist-inspired demonstration scheduled for that date. After the Communist Party resolutions were defeated, Ing. Gebel, the leading Communist in the Schottengasse branch, threatened non-Communists with dismissal. He drafted two letters, one to Johann Koplenig, the other to the NAV personnel director in the Kantgasse of-fice complaining of a lack of Communist enthusiasm. An answer was received before 1600 hours from the Kantgasse office signed by a Soviet official and the Austrian personnel chief stating: "This is an internal Austrian matter. The SIV is unwilling to close its office two hours early, since it wishes to avoid newspaper notoriety. The SIV prefers useful workers to Austrian Communist Party members who are primarily interested in the Austrian Communist Party".

> This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States. Next Review Date: 2008

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